

# GreenPort 2015 of Baltimore

## Annual Review

## 'Open for Business' and Committed to Stewardship

The Maryland Port Administration (MPA) is committed to providing the economic benefits of a thriving port while protecting clean air and water for both people and wildlife. During 2015, several broad initiatives supported these goals.

In December, the MPA announced a new 30-year contract with Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics (WWL), the port's top handler for "roll on/roll off" cargo, which includes everything from cars to heavy farm and construction machinery. The agreement means that WWL will remain in Baltimore through 2045, supporting approximately 2,500 direct and indirect jobs in the state. "Word is getting out that Maryland is open for business, and industry around the world is responding," said Governor Larry Hogan.

Also in 2015, the MPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers removed 4.5 million cubic yards of sediment from shipping channels in the Chesapeake Bay and Baltimore Harbor. This is part of the annual dredging program that maintains safe passage for ships. The MPA complemented its existing



*Young trees, planted at the MPA's Hawkins Point facility, take root along the Patapsco River. On the opposite shore, cranes at the Seagirt Marine Terminal prepare the Port of Baltimore for the increasing demands of international commerce.*

environmental programs by releasing an Environmental Strategy that outlines initiatives for clean water, healthy air, and reduced energy consumption. Action items include establishing programs to evaluate emission control technologies for ports, reviewing and updating existing water quality programs, and reducing energy consumption and the use of diesel fuel.

In October, the MPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers received an award from the American Society of Civil Engineers for their restoration of Poplar Island. Robert Stevens, the society's president, called the island "a stellar example of what can be accomplished when vision, collaboration, and creativity come together to improve economic, social, and environmental sustainability."



*GreenPort 2015 is the Maryland Port Administration's latest annual update of projects and programs that contribute to a thriving economy, environmental stewardship, and community partnerships. As always, we thank the many private sector businesses, government leaders, communities, and individual citizens who have helped make these achievements a reality.*

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*Baltimore now hosts three of the world's largest container shipping companies.*

## Cargo, Jobs, and Safety

The Port of Baltimore remains the top U.S. port for handling automobiles, light trucks, and farm and construction machinery. In 2015, it set a new record for the number of shipping containers handled at its terminals. Baltimore is also among the top ports for the importation of forest products, sugar, gypsum, and aluminum, and the exportation of coal.

In 2015, the Maersk Line, the world's top container shipping company, began operations that will bring approximately 31,000 additional containers through the port each year.

Baltimore was also named the most productive port in the nation for container berth productivity. The analysis, by the Journal of Commerce, factored in elements such as a ship's arrival and departure time at a berth and the number of container moves per hour.

Overall, port business at public and private terminals generates approximately 13,650 direct jobs and in total more than 127,000 jobs linked to

port activities. It produces approximately \$2.9 billion in wages and salaries, \$2.2 billion in business revenue, and \$310 million in state and local tax revenues.

## Terminal Improvements

Reconstruction of Berth 4 at the Dundalk Marine Terminal began in 2015. The improvements are driven by the MPA's commitment to maintaining and improving infrastructure for its customers and for providing world-class facilities at the Port of Baltimore.

## Dredging Solutions

The annual dredging program removed approximately 4.5 million cubic yards of sediment from shipping channels and relocated the material to dredged material placement sites at Masonville and Poplar Island.

As existing placement sites reach capacity, more options will be needed. As a result, the MPA has been exploring the "innovative reuse" of dredged material for construction products and other uses. In 2015, an inter-

agency workgroup began reviewing the state approval process for the innovative reuse of dredged material and hopes to clarify the process for potential future projects.

## Expanded Cargo Storage

The MPA added approximately 5.5 acres to its footprint at the Dundalk Marine Terminal. The expansion was achieved by demolishing several structures at an adjacent property, a former manufacturing site that was purchased a few years earlier. This expanded area will provide much needed storage capacity for cargo.

## Awards and Renovations

In 2015, the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line presented the Port of Baltimore's Cruise Terminal with customer service awards for Best Check-in Experience and Best Departure Experience.

A series of renovations took place at the terminal this year to further ensure a high quality experience for guests. A corridor adjacent to the berth was improved with weather protection, air conditioning, heating, and new exit doors. The interior of the terminal is also being upgraded with new ticket kiosks, new restrooms, new carpeting, and a new VIP lounge.



*The Port of Baltimore Cruise Terminal benefitted from renovations that will help provide passengers with a fabulous trip from start to finish.*



## Air Quality Partnership

A new partnership between the MPA, Maryland Department of Transportation, and Department of the Environment will help launch collaborative programs that improve air quality.

The partnership, launched in December, will enhance the MPA's existing work to reduce air emissions and energy consumption at port facilities.

## Honors for Poplar Island

The Poplar Island environmental restoration project was awarded the Innovation in Sustainable Engineering Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers. Located in Talbot County, Poplar Island was rescued from a devastating state of erosion by the use of dredged material from Baltimore shipping channels.

## New Green Roof Design

The MPA, supported by a grant from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, received funds to install and test a green roof on two buildings at the Dundalk Marine Terminal, covering more than one acre of rooftop.

A green roof is covered by vegetation that filters rainfall and reduces storm-water runoff. This project will evaluate the effectiveness of a green roof that



*Poplar Island, restored by dredged material, continues to win national recognition.*

is much lighter than traditional designs and could be used on buildings that can't support greater weight.

## Trees and More Trees

The MPA helped sponsor several tree plantings to protect water quality and enhance wildlife habitat in shoreline locations. Approximately 1,400 trees were planted in Masonville Cove and 2,000 trees at Hawkins Point, a closed placement site for dredged material.

## Clean, Green Trucks

To date, the MPA's Dray Truck Replacement Program has helped replace more than 130 older diesel trucks with newer models that reduce air emissions. The program has been operating since 2009 with support from a variety of partners. In 2015, the program received an \$870,000 grant from the U.S. EPA that is expected to help replace at least 25 additional dray trucks.

## Big Belly Trash Cans

The MPA has installed Big Belly "smart" trash cans at the World Trade

Center and Dundalk Marine Terminal as part of its litter reduction program. These solar-powered, gentle compression cans hold a higher volume of trash and contain it securely. The Big Bellies also draw attention, which means that more people use them and less litter reaches the street.

## Water Wheel Anniversary

In May, the Inner Harbor Water Wheel completed its first year of clearing litter from Baltimore waters. During this time, the wheel collected more than 150 tons of trash and debris — equal to the weight of about 15 school buses. The MPA provided \$500,000 to help fund the water wheel.

## Goats at Work

Goats from Harmony Church Farm gave a boost to native plants at Masonville Cove. The small herd was brought in to eat an invasive plant that crowds out native plant species in fields and wetlands. Invasive plants are very hard to eradicate, but the goats made progress while avoiding the use of chemical herbicides.



*The new osprey cam at Masonville Cove, installed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in March, captures intimate views of nesting osprey.*



*The MPA partnered with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay to clear approximately 2,000 pounds of trash and debris from the stream in Herring Run Park.*

## Community Conversations

The MPA continues to seek public feedback through community meetings and MPA advisory groups. In 2015, the MPA provided presentations to community groups about port operations, air quality, water quality, and dredging. Citizens participated as active members of several advisory groups, including one that addresses the expansion of the dredged material placement site at Cox Creek. Their meetings are open to the general public and participation is welcomed.

## Tours, Events, & Outreach

Maryland elected officials, Baltimore area grantmakers, and scientists from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation were among the many people who had a first-hand learning experience about

the Port of Baltimore in 2015.

In all, approximately 14,000 people — who also included teachers, students, families, outdoor enthusiasts, and community representatives — attended events, tours, and programs sponsored by the MPA and port partners. These activities offered a close look at dredged material placement sites, marine terminals, and the Chesapeake ecosystem.

## Volunteer Connections

The Baltimore Port Alliance helped organize approximately 90 volunteers for a spring clean-up at Turner Station Park and two sites along Bear Creek near the Dundalk Marine Terminal. Girl Scouts from Orchard Beach/Pasadena went to work at the Swan Creek wetlands, adjacent to the Cox Creek

dredged material placement site, and cleared 240 pounds of trash and debris from the shoreline. In Baltimore, MPA employees helped the Turner Station Conservation Team unload and organize produce for local distribution.

## Teacher's SMART Institute

The MPA continued to partner with the Baltimore Port Alliance, Anne Arundel Community College, and the SMART Institute on a teacher training program that takes place at the Port of Baltimore. The 19 participants in 2015 hailed from Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, and Texas.

## New GreenPort Newsletter

The GreenPort newsletter debuted in January 2015, delivering bi-monthly news about MPA environmental activities to email inboxes across the region. For a free subscription, visit [www.marylandports.com/greenport](http://www.marylandports.com/greenport).

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